

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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CIRCULAR NO. A-16
Transmittal Memorandum No. 3

TO THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

SUBJECT: Programing and coordination of surveying and mapping
(international boundaries)

This Transmittal Memorandum sets forth, as Exhibit D to Circular No. A-16 dated January 16, 1953, standard procedures for assuring conformance with official United States policy on international boundaries to be shown on all maps produced by Federal agencies. According to these procedures the Department of State, as the appropriate agency of the Federal Government in matters of foreign policy, will furnish guidance to the other agencies on questions of boundaries and sovereignty claims.

ELMER B. STAATS
Acting Director

Attachment

OMB Declassification&Release Instructions On File - No Referral To OMB

(No. A-16)

EXHIBIT D
CIRCULAR NO. A-16

PROCEDURES IN RESPECT TO THE REPRESENTATION OF
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND CLAIMS OF SOVEREIGNTY

To achieve consistency among map and chart producing agencies of the Federal Government in cartographic representation of boundary information, and conformity with official United States foreign policy, all such agencies publishing maps which show international boundaries other than of the United States with Canada and Mexico shall consult with the Office of the Geographer, Department of State, on international boundary or sovereignty-claim questions. In order to accomplish these objectives the following procedure is established:

1. The Office of the Geographer, Department of State, shall:
 - a. Maintain a boundary inventory comprising information files on international boundaries between political entities prepared from authentic sources and in accordance with the official boundary policy of the U. S. Government, including the information specified below:
 - (1) Length of boundary in miles.
 - (2) Status (demarcated, delimited, undefined, provisional, disputed segments, etc.).
 - (3) Technical-geographical description of boundaries.
 - (4) Reference to basic treaties establishing and modifying boundaries.
 - (5) Authoritative map sources:
 - (a) Small- and medium-scale maps showing boundaries.
 - (b) Large-scale maps of boundaries in problem areas.
 - (c) Reference to large-scale maps held or issued by Army Map Service and other agencies, e.g., topographic series.
 - (6) Special considerations involving recent and current developments (if applicable).
 - b. Keep current such files in accordance with all available documentation involving international boundaries and sovereignties recognized by the U. S. Government.

- c. Make pertinent boundary and sovereignty data available to all Federal agencies with cartographic responsibilities by:
 - (1) Periodic issuance of new developments with respect to the representation of international boundaries on official U. S. maps and charts.
 - (2) Prompt advice to agencies concerning significant current changes in international boundary alignment.
 - (3) Maintenance of current files on independent states and dependent areas of the world.
 - (4) Provision of such data as the agencies may request.
- 2. Federal map and chart producing agencies shall:
 - a. Review all boundaries to be shown on their maps, charts, map indices, and other graphics which indicate international boundaries and sovereignties.
 - b. Except for those recognized as static and free from problems, request from the Office of the Geographer, Department of State, information on any boundary or sovereignty matters concerning which there may be any uncertainty.
 - c. Make use of disclaimer notes on maps, charts, map indices, and other graphics which show the alignment of international boundaries. Such notes normally need to be prepared with appropriate wording in instances where agreement has been reached with the Department of State to show de facto boundaries, which may not be in accordance with the official policy of the U. S. Government but which need to be shown on maps produced by Federal agencies. For mapping publications which indicate international boundaries other than de facto boundaries, a standard disclaimer note is to be used.